(b) what other steps Government are taking to ensure a ten percent cut in Government expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Posts are created on the basis of functional requirements and organisational needs.

(b) Cost reduction, cost control and economy measures are adopted commensurate with the level of operations.

Conversion of Metre Gauge into Broad Gauge

368. SHRI P. UPENDRA :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert 6,000 KM of metre gauge line into broad gauge the during Eighth Five Year Plan; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this decision is not in consonance with the earlier decision of the railways to strengthan the metre gauge network and make it as efficient as broad gauge, as done in some countries; and

(c) the reasons for the reversel of Government's earlier decision and for going in for large-scale conversion inspite of the reasource crunch ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Eighth Plan has not yet been finalised. The Ministry of Railways are, however, considering conversion of 6,000 kms. of MG into BG during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Conversion is being considered in place of strengthening of the MG network so as to eliminate bottlenecks and hold-ups due to break of gauge and transhipment, and also help in the dispersal of trade and industry.

Reinstatement of dismissed railway employees

369. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the number of railway employees who had been dismissed for participating in the 1974 strike ;

(b) what is the number of such employees who have been reinstated till date and whether any review was undertaken in this regard, if so, when; and

(c) by when the remaining railway employees are likely to be re instated indicating the number thereof, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) 16,898 railway employees were dismissed/removed in the context of May, 1974 strike.

(b) and (c) Instructions were issued in April, 1977 itself that all such employees should be reinstated forthwith. All had been taken back to duty except 16 employees, who could not be reinstated due to reasons beyond the control of Railway Administration, such as retirement, death, conviction by Courts, unwillingness and where abouts not known.

Appointment of General Managers in the Railways

370. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only officers with at least two years of service left before superannuation are considered for appointments as General Managers and for equivalent posts;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain officers have recently been appointed in violation of the said policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appointments have recently been made of persons as Members of the Railway Board and General Managers on ad hoc basis ignoring the claims of senior suitable and available General Managers;

(d) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that such appointments have created discontentment among the officers of senior rank;

(f) if so, what action Government have taken to remedy the situation;

(g) whether such appointments have been made by the Government in accordance with the established procedures; and

(h) if not, the reasons for the deviation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Normally officers with two years service left are considered.